**Schemes for modernisation of steel plants**

2397. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes launched by Government for modernisation of steel plants;

(b) the progress made, so far, in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the progress made, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) In the Public Sector, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) had launched modernisation schemes at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants. These schemes have since been completed.

**Dumping of discarded ships**

2398. SHRI S. RAMA CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will theMinister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has emerged as a dumping ground for discarded ships due to low customs duties and as much as three million tonnes of steel scrap is coming into the domestic market from old ship stripped mainly at - Anjar in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have appointed a Committee which has indicated that the duty on ship breaking scrap should have been fixed at 25 per cent under re-reliable scrap instead of current import duty on melting scrap at 5 per cent; and

(c) if so, Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, import of old ships for breaking has reduced as is evident from the LDT of ships broken during the last three years:

| Year | LET (in million tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 3.368 |
| 1999-2000 | 3.063 |
| 200001 | 2.205 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.